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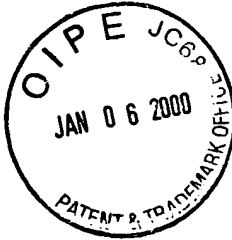
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
NISHIUMI et al.

Serial No. 09/227,350

Filed: January 8, 1999

For: OPERATING DEVICE AND IMAGE PROCESSING
SYSTEM USING SAME



Atty. Ref.: 723-680

Group: 2778

Examiner:

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January 6, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached.. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The references were cited in the attached European search report regarding a foreign counterpart to a related application to the subject application.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

NISHIUMI et al.
Serial No. 09/227,350

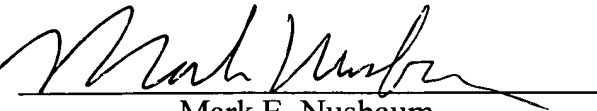
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application of a related application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

Respectfully submitted,
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